# Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue #107 June 2010

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The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue 107 - June 2010 www.igkt.net

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**COVER PHOTOGRAPHS**
**Front & Back:**
This style of knot was shown in Ashley's Book of Knots as a two-cord sinnet braiding around a cylinder. Member Joe Bennett chose instead to form the sennit around an internal ring (see back cover) to create these wonderful and intriguing versions of what he refers to as 'the next craze'. See "How I Did It" feature on page 14 to 19.

## Features

**12-13 Letter from our President**

**43 Last word**
A Banner Competition!
by **Hon Sec Barry Mault**

The Council have decided to change the Guild contact address back to that of the Secretary:

Barry Mault Hon. Secretary, International Guild of Knot Tyers
144 Millhouse Lane,
WIRRAL,
CH46 6DT,
UK

Barry Mault
Hon. Secretary

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# In Memoriam - Ken Higgs 21st May 1928-12th May 2010.

Ken Higgs was a long-standing member of the Guild who sat on the committee for some years, and was a strong supporter of the East Anglian Branch. Ken passed away after a short illness. We in East Anglia will greatly miss his contributions to our meetings.
He first started out in the world of knots being taught by his father. His 24 years in the Royal Navy was a time that saw his interest grow and later, after leaving the Navy, he continued to develop his ropework. When he retired he started going to craft markets as well as giving many talks and demonstrations. Whilst an all-round knot tyer, he was particularly interested in flat knots and braids of all sorts, indeed he was a member of the Braid Society as well as the IGKT. He was always willing to help anyone with a knotty problem and kept in touch with many members world-wide. Some of his last knotting was exploring Frank Brown's knotted animals. He was an enthusiastic kite flyer, where his skill in knot tying was of much use, both for his own kites and for his fellow kite flyers.
He was not very well just before the AGM and, as he knew he would not be able to attend the meeting at Weston-Super-Mare, he asked me to take many of his working samples and other items to the AGM for members to take away, enjoy and share with others. It was heartening that those attending took him at his word, and to know that his work and his knotting spirit are spread far and wide.
Des Pawson, Ipswich.

# In Remembrance - Andy Dart

It is with immense sadness that we have to report the untimely death of Andy Dart, former IGKT Guild and Council member.

Andy was a keen knot tyer and biker. Sadly he died whilst riding his motorcycle, although one might find some comfort in recognising that Andy died doing something he loved. Andy was a very popular guy, as is evident from the numerous messages on his bikers' club web site (please visit http://www.buryhillbikers.com/forum/ and search for "Andy Dart").

Ken Yalden reports on the IGKT forum (he has kindly allowed us to quote here) -
""The vicar said he 'has never seen so many at a funeral' which showed the measure of Andy"
It is safe to say no Knot Tyer before has had 10 motor Bikers as outriders to the front of their hearse and in excess of 50 to the rear as the cortege.
I can report there were 7 of us in the Knot Tyers group, and we were all proud to be part of the 200 who all said farewell to a lovely man.

Farewell Andy, you were taken from us far too soon.
Phil Cook

# Notes from the Mousepad

**Another successful AGM in Weston Super Mare – well organised by Richard Hopkins and his team from the South West, and attended by members from across the globe. The Rule changes which were notified in the last copy of KM were approved unanimously, I am pleased to say, putting us on a strong footing for the future. Two new Trustees were elected – Colin Byfleet who has been our Supplies Secretary for a while, and Ian Rogers. Colin has also been unanimously elected as Council Chairman.**

**You will have received a DVD with this copy of KM – details are in the magazine (below) – with a membership list as a searchable computer file. This list has members from the UK shown by postcode town rather than county in line with common commercial practice. If anyone really needs a printed copy then please let me know by post or – if you know someone with e-mail who can help - that would be best.**

**You will see that two of our members have passed away. Ken Higgs sent a box of his work to the AGM for members to take home a piece to remember him by – as it turned out this was tragically prescient; Andy Dart was standing down as a Trustee on the day after he died. Books of Condolence for Ken and Andy Dart have been opened on the IGKT website but if any member who does not have internet access wishes to leave a message please send it to me and I will add it for you.**

**Barry Mault**
**Honorary Secretary**

A note from your Councilmember, Phil Cook:

The DVD enclosed with this issue of KM is an 'autoplay' disc for a PC. Simply put it in the CD/DVD tray and it should play automatically (or you will be asked if you wish to play it). If it doesn't, then go to the CD/DVD 'root' folder and double click 'igkt.exe'.

# Letters To The Editor

Hi Lindsey

My wife and I have been back and forth to the USA for the last four years and have not been able to attend any IGKT meetings since getting to Charlestown ,S.C. a few years ago. For the interest of the members who went to that meeting the new replica pilot schooner, Spirit of South Carolina (which we saw being built) (http://www.scmaritime.org/boat.html ) is now fully functional and a beautiful piece of craftsmanship. Thought you may be interested in the following:

## Spontaneous knotting of an agitated string

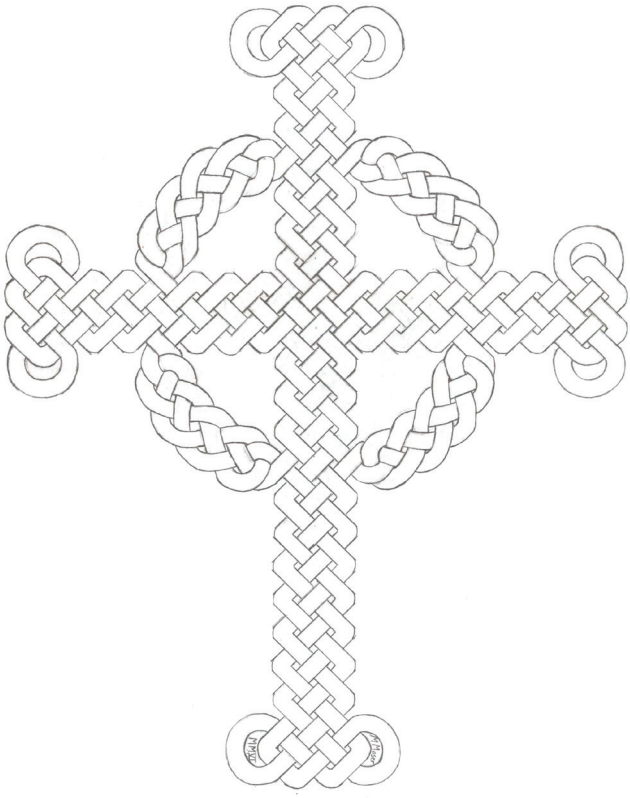
Dorian M. Raymer* and Douglas E. Smith*
Department of Physics, University of California at San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0379, La Jolla, CA 92093
Edited by Leo P. Kadanoff, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, and approved July 30, 2007 (received for review December 21, 2006 as part of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences)

It is well known that a jostled string tends to become knotted; yet the factors governing the "spontaneous" formation of various knots are unclear. We performed experiments in which a string was tumbled inside a box and found that complex knots often form within seconds. We used mathematical knot theory to analyze the knots. Above a critical string length, the probability P of knotting at first increased sharply with length but then saturated below 100%. This behaviour differs from that of mathematical self-avoiding random walks, where P has been proven to approach 100%. Finite agitation time and jamming of the string due to its stiffness result in lower probability, but P approaches 100% with long, flexible strings. We analyzed the knots by calculating their Jones polynomials [Invented by Sir Vaughan Jones, KNZM, FRS, FRSNZ, who is a Vice President of the IGKT - Ed] via computer analysis of digital photos of the string. Remarkably, almost all were identified as prime knots: 120 different types, having minimum crossing numbers up to 11, were observed in 3,415 trials. All prime knots with up to seven crossings were observed. The relative probability of forming a knot decreased exponentially with minimum crossing number and Moebius energy, mathematical measures of knot complexity. Based on the observation that long, stiff strings tend to form a coiled structure when confined, we propose a simple model to describe the knot formation based on random "braid moves" of the string end. Our model can qualitatively account for the observed distribution of knots and dependence on agitation time and string length.

***They obviously don't realise that all pieces of string knot themselves spontaneously just before you want to use them!***

Very best wishes
Colin [Dr. Colin Byfleet - IGKT Chairman and Supplies Secretary]

Dear Sirs,
On page 7 of Graumont and Hensel's Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Ropework is a patent rope machine. Can anyone give me (or lead me to someone who can give me) the following:
The manufacturer or inventor, the patent number and country and year of patent, blueprints, the name of the ropewalk which housed these machines, and any museum which currently houses them?
Please respond to mmoserspecialtyropes@gmail.com
Thank you
Matthew Moser
Haysville, KS, USA
[*There are two photographs on the page noted - the top photograph is of a yarn-spinning operation and the lower one is the rope-making machine referred to by Mr. Moser. Mr Moser has also supplied the cross knot below - Ed*]



# From the Editor's Blotter

Spring has sprung and we now await the middle day of the northern hemisphere's summer, while those in the antipodes are experiencing the cooler days of winter weather. Birth, death and re-birth - it seems that our Guild has been undergoing a revival of interest in decorative knotting, whilst also experiencing the death of members passed and attempts being made to determine whether or not there exists a new configuration of rope into an hitherto undiscovered convolution.

Those who were fortunate enough to travel to the AGM got a surprise in the form of Ken Higgs' gift, a sobering and saddening reminder of life's short span in the passing of Andy Dart and then the delight of meeting friends again or for the first time. It is a blessing to all those who undertake the journey and are enriched by its fruits. The AGM, for all its worth, is not our only venue for meeting - we also have a web-site with our own forum for interested knotters who are keen to learn a new knot, or to discuss a new or existing knot with Guild members and non-members, so as to widen our horizons and 'meet' new knotters in some far-flung places.

Our web-site has been experiencing plenty of activity this last three months and, for those who do not visit the web, some of the activities on the forum (our web chat pages) have proven to be somewhat 'noisy' at times. As your editor I feel that it is incumbent upon me to proffer the topics of some of those discussions here, to open your minds to other member and non-member comments, and to ask for your own feedback on the items raised. I have not entered an exhaustive list, nor have I analyzed it in great depth - I leave that for you to discover and perhaps make your own summary of the points raised. Perhaps you would even like to get your own by-line as a reporter by sending me a summary of what you feel are the significant elements? Mine is but an indicator on page 33 herein.

Speaking of referential works, do read the fine research by Thomas Simpson on pages 28 through 31 of this issue. Mr Simpson notes that 'acceptance' is the key-note to any new knot. Perhaps it was prescient of him to have anticipated the following four knots on pages 9 through 11? Perhaps also some sharp-eyed reader will help in identification of the contents of pages 26/27 - any takers? Thank you to all our readers and authors - a feast awaits your eager eyes and minds!

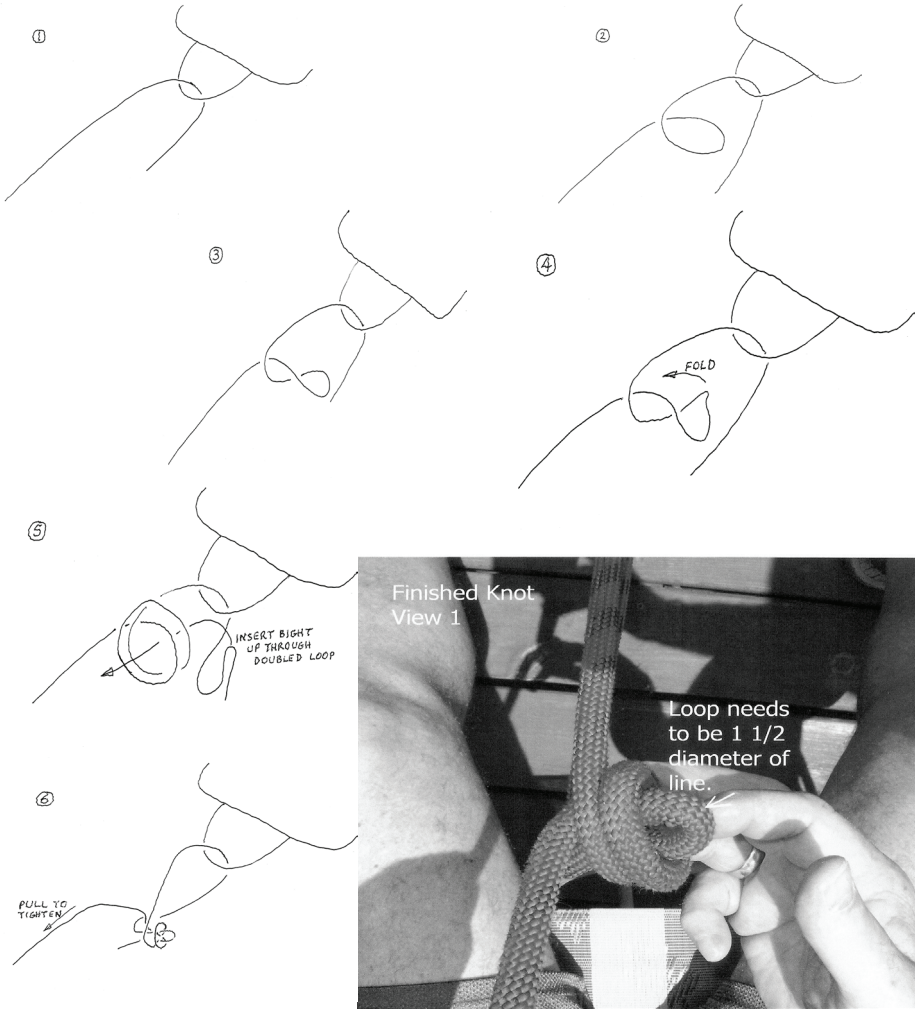
Wishing you all good speed, fair words and photos, and fair leads.

Sincerely yours, **Lindsey Philpott**

# New Knots?

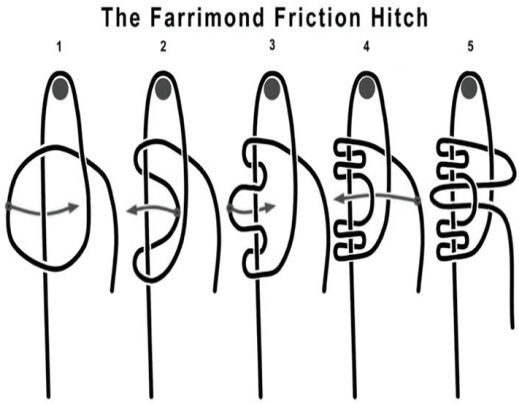
Readers are asked for their opinions on the following four potentially new knots. Knotting Matters is NOT saying that these are new knots - we are asking for members opinions as to whether members can point us in the direction of printed publications available for normal release concerning these potentially new knots. If no comments are heard within, say, six months from the date of this publication, we may consider them formally published as new knots at that time.

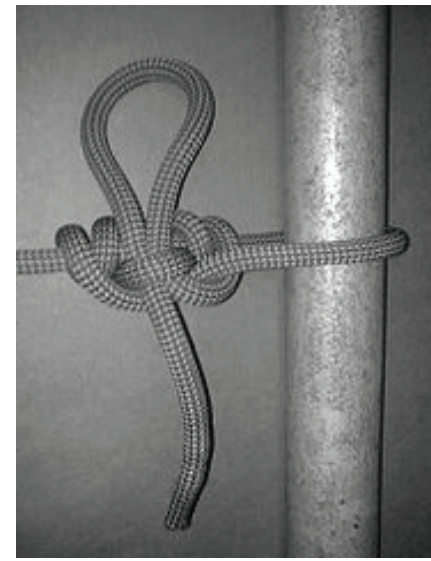
First, to be known as the Pace quick-release knot, and to be placed under tension in final form, made with climbing line only, for raising or lowering a non-personnel load:



# New Knots (cont'd)?

Next, the Farrimond Hitch, to be so named and used in camping to act as the securing knot on a ridge line to hold a tarpaulin or as a 'hootchie' cover, adjustable and able to be quickly demounted:



Third, the 'discovery' of a new form of ABOK #1092 by John Heselton:

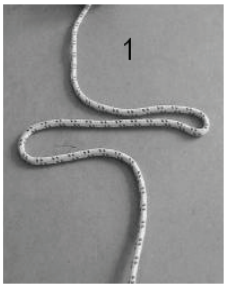
Serendipitously, I have "discovered" hitherto unrecorded knots (at least, to my knowledge), by accidentally mis-tying a known knot (in one case), or by subjecting it to unreasonable treatment (as in the present case).

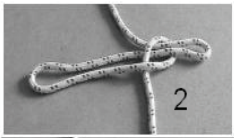
Clifford Ashley gives knot ABOK #1092 as an alternative for the Spanish Bowline knot. Since the latter is a favourite of mine, I compared the two, but found that Ashley's knot lacked the elegant symmetry of the Spanish Bowline. The method of tying #1092 imparts a lot of twist to the rope, the removal of which is done only with difficulty. I do not know what impelled me to do this, but grasping the free ends of the rope, I pulled them firmly in opposite directions, which caused the knot to collapse into what, to my delight, seemed to be an elegant, opposed loop structure with a Chinese Crown knot interposed. It also appeared to remove much of the twist in the rope. In the accompanying picture, the original knot is shown above, and fore and aft views of the resulting treatment are depicted below.

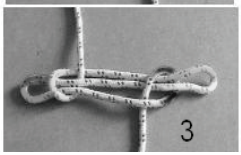
As this method is unconventional, I decomposed the knot to see if there were a more direct way of tying it, but so far I have been unsuccessful. The knot would seem to lend itself to many uses - if only I could think of one!

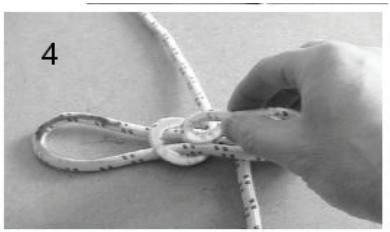
Third, the 'discovery' by John Heselton:

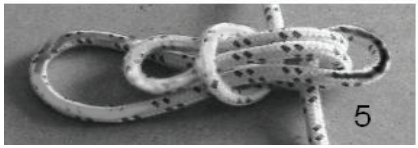
Fourth, another opposed loops knot sent by Michel Chauvigny, formed from a Sheepshank:

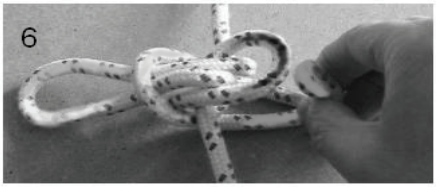


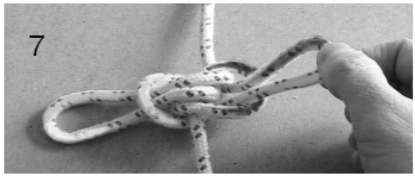



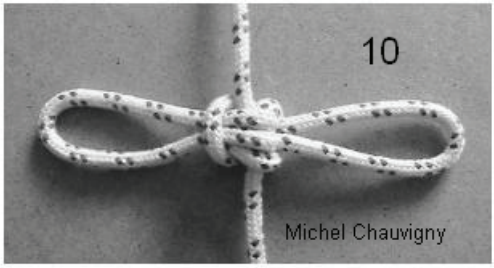




In no case above is any formal declaration made by the IGKT, Knotting Matters or any Branch of the IGKT that these are new knots, but member opinion is sought in an effort to make such a declaration, there being no formally-convened New Knot Committee, although persons believing that such a group exists are formally requested hereby to make themselves known to the Chairman of the IGKT Council or to the Honorary Secretary with details of that appointment or agreement. No promises are made as to naming conventions, that privilege remaining solely with the person or group bringing such knot to the Guild's attention. Letters should be addressed to the Editor, Knotting Matters c/o knottingmatters@igkt.net or at the editor's home address shown in the membership handbook.



# LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My Fellow Knot-Tyers,
The time to reflect after a great trip abroad often has to wait for some time to pass after arriving home to the welcome return of reality and work. For me, this year's AGM reflection came in the form of an additional day at the airport while waiting for a plane to fly around the renewed volcanic plume that has been covering the British Isles and northern Europe. To make the time pass easier, a young airman from the US Air Force, who was headed home on his first leave in close to a year, luckily joined me. So first, to all military personnel from every country, thank you for all you do.

To begin, I must give my heart filled thanks to Richard Hopkins for all of the time and hard work that he put into making this year's Annual Meeting such an extraordinary success. And also to all of the West Country Knotters, TS Weston, our Sea Cadet Corps host, and to every member who displayed their fantastic works. We had members from nine countries that were able to attend and many were attending for the first time, making it a Global International Meeting.

Richard also made sure that the AGM contained two of the main goals of the IGKT, education and keeping the history of our art alive, with an eye-opening talk on the restoration of a twine works at West Coker in Somerset. This educational talk mainly concentrated on the first phase of restoring the actual building and then on the future plans of completing it to be a functional twine works. Fortunately, the original machinery was pretty much left in place and when it is brought back to life, it will be a must-see and a joy to have high quality twine to put to use.

At the AGM's "Knot Supper", it was my great pleasure to award this year's President's Cup to Tony Fisher of the New Zealand Chapter. The attributes, which Tony displays through his work as President of the New Zealand Chapter, rigger, knot tyer and communicator have stood out for me as long as I have known him. His dedication in promoting the Guild and staying in touch with the Executive Council is an example for all members. It is through these actions that we succeed as an International Guild.

I am also highly thankful to all of the members of the Executive Council. They have made this year run with ease while also undertaking a number of issues that have meant more work for themselves. All of these tasks are undertaken to make sure that our organization is set upon a proper course that reaches our present and future goals. To Colin and Jane, who came off of the council this year, thank you greatly for all of your hard work and time spent on the Executive Committee. Safe travels along the canals and long countryside walks. To Colin Byfleet, our new council member, welcome. Colin also was voted by the council to become this year's council chairman. Congratulations Colin!

On a sad note, I wish to remember Council Member Andy Dart and member Ken Higgs. We lost Andy the day before the AGM to a tragic motorcycle accident and Ken the following weekend. Andy was coming off the Council the Saturday of AGM and will be greatly missed as a Knot Tyer, demonstrator of the art and a wonderful friend to be around. Ken's illness was brought to true light at the AGM. Ken made available to the membership at the AGM many fine braids, which he had constructed over the years, to raise funds for the Guild and to be used in the demos to show what can be formed with time, patience and line. May they Rest in Peace.

This year's adventure included for Bob Dollar, from the USA, and myself, an invitation to help at the Guild's booth at the Rickmansworth Canal Boat Festival, the weekend following the AGM. Known as 'The Ricky', this is a complete celebration of the narrow boat life in a town made famous as a horse-changing station, one day's journey from London. Lead by past Council Chairman Ken Nelson, the cast of IGKT characters included past president Jeff Wyatt, membership chairman Bruce Turley and fender maker Mickey Hazel. It was a joy to be a part of the event and to spend time promoting the Guild, tying dragonflies for all of the kids and to enjoy the friendship of fellow Guild members.

Smooth Turns, Dan Machowski

The Old Man of the Sea as photographed by Robbie Best
A fine view of Tony Fisher at work on the crane 'Hikitia'

A few of the 'likely lads' at Rickmansworth Canal Boat Festival l. to r. Bruce, Bob, Jeff, Mickey, myself and Ken

## A Different Perspective: Tutorial for a Covered Ring of ABOK #1387

by Joe Bennett.

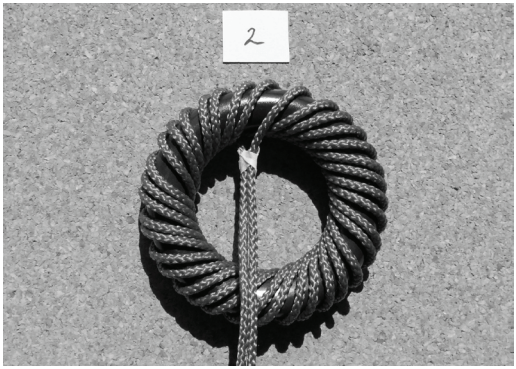
Here are the first few steps for a covered ring tutorial based on ABOK#1387. I think anyone attempting it will find it enjoyable and easy enough to do.

If you look at ABOK#1387 it can be seen that it is basically a 6-strand left-hand laid rope (blue cord) interwoven with a 3-strand right-hand laid rope (white cord). With this in mind I imagined the 6-strand rope with a core (plastic ring) and the 3-strand rope worked around the perimeter. However, in order to have the white cord at the perimeter, it is necessary to make the interweave slightly different from Ashley's diagram. This can be seen in the accompanying photographs.

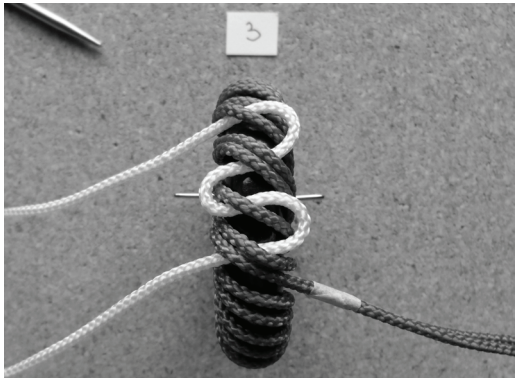
For the sake of clarity in the photographs I have used a curtain ring (ext.dia.6 cm.) and 2 mm. polypropylene cord. For this size of ring I have cut 7' of blue and 6' of white cord. I won't dwell too much on lengths of cord for any particular size of ring as it is easy enough to make a dummy run beforehand, then remove the cord and measure. If you want a lanyard using the cord you have used to make the covered ring, then this has to be taken into consideration in your measurements.
In order to make the white interweave with a single cord, the number of turns around the ring with the blue cord must not be divisible by 3. When making the initial grommet, try to have enough turns so that there are no gaps at the inner perimeter. Also, in the context of the photographs, I am always working from bottom to top.

[1] With the blue cord [dark in this greyscale photo], take 6 turns around the ring after securing the standing part with a small piece of tape.
[2] Now follow round with the working end until there are 35 turns and the two ends meet. (35 turns is fine as 35 is not divisible by 3). Don't have the turns too tight as the white cord has to be worked in. Also, avoid "riding turns". After seizing the two ends with a Constrictor Knot or tape, twist the turns so that the ends are clear of the area to be interwoven.

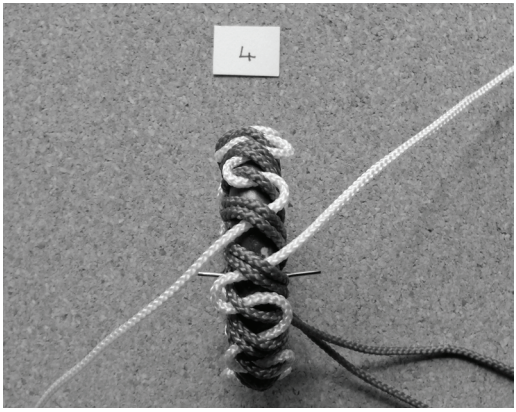
# Did It
## *s tell all*

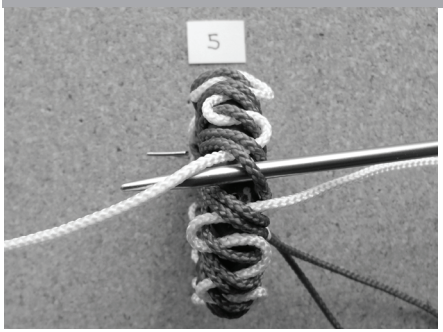



[3] Starting where the ends of the blue cord meet and introducing the white cord, work bottom to top in the photo:
U2, up O1, U1, O1 (same cord),
U2, up O1, U1, O1
Proceed like this (U2, up O1, U1, O1) until one circuit is complete.

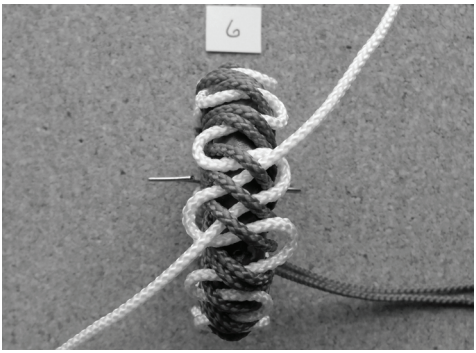



[4] One circuit complete.

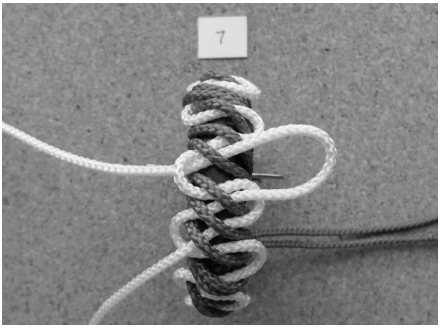





[5] Pass the white cord down U1 and under the standing part where the needle shows in this photo. (Don't tighten the white cord too much as there are 3 circuits to make. You may have to work some slack into the blue cord as you go along. This only takes a few minutes).



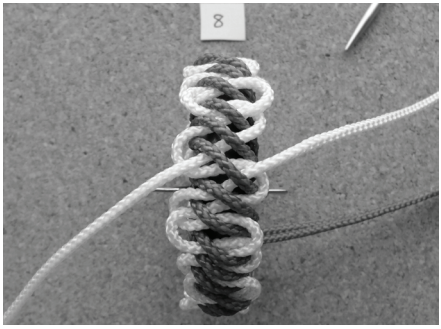

[6] O1, U2.

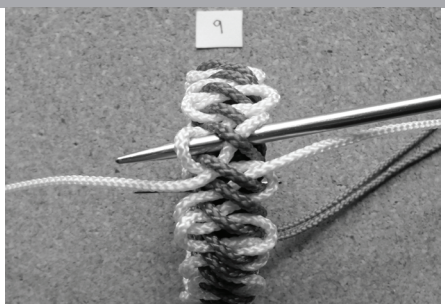



[7] O2, down U2. Keep in mind one is white and the other [dark] is blue.

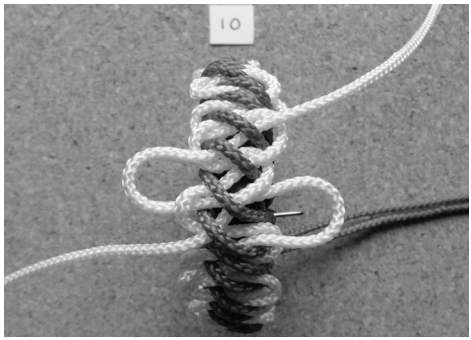
Repeat [6] and [7] until second circuit is complete. (O1, U2 then O2, down U2)

[8] Second circuit complete.

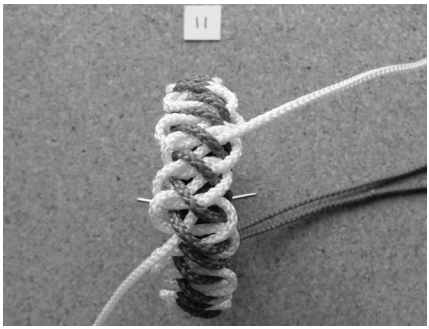





[9] Start of third (final) circuit.
O2 (w,b), down U3 (w,b,w). (If the work is becoming tight, work some slack into the blue cord. The interweave may look untidy for this last circuit, but everything will come right at the latter end of the tightening process).

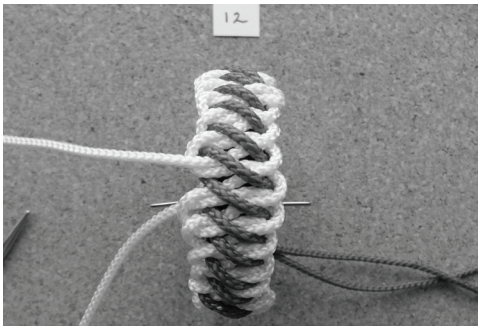


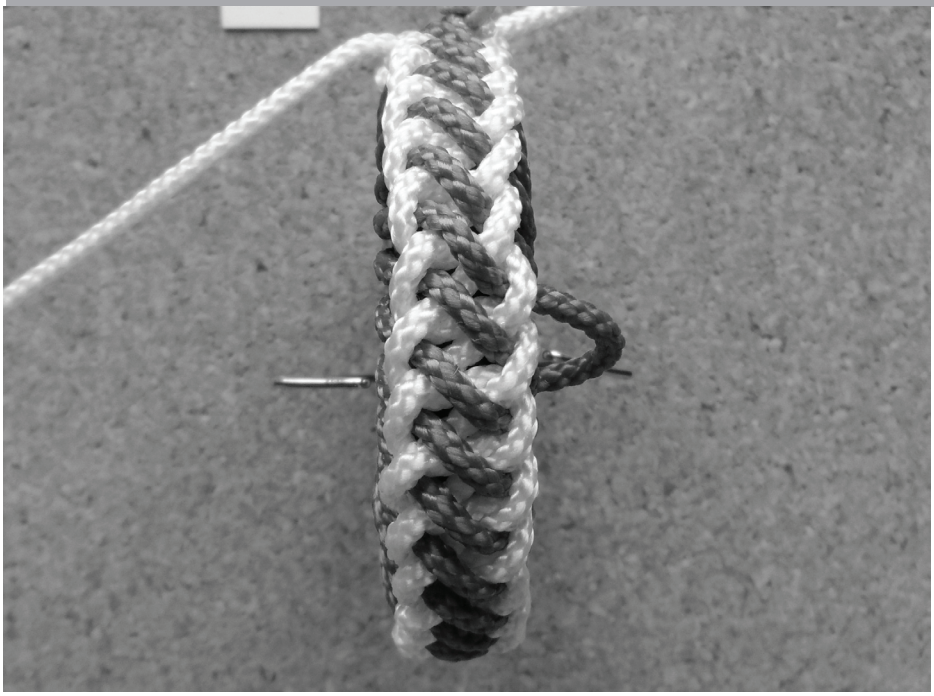

[10] O2 (b,w), U2 (b,b).



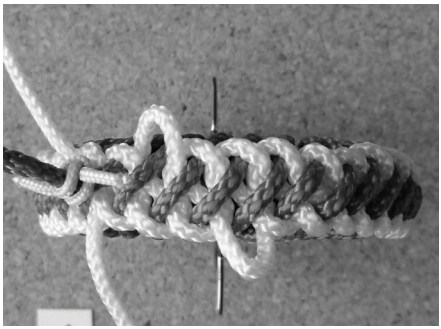

[11] This photo shows the slack taken out of steps [9] and [10] which I had shown opened up for clarity.

[12] Repeat steps [9] and [10] until you reach this stage.





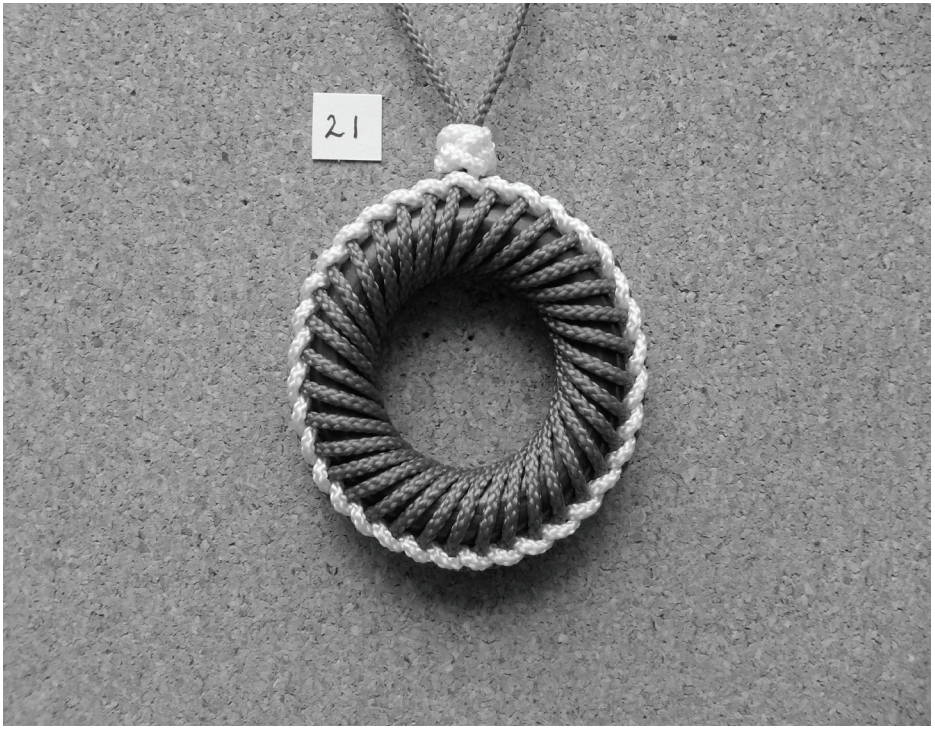
From the last stage we now proceed to tighten all, showing here the tightening of the blue cord to bring the ends to the outside of the ring for making a pendant. Tie the two blue ends with a Constrictor knot.



Next, work the white cord around to bring the ends evenly together for the pendant finish.

# Did It
## *all (continued)*

Finally, bring the white ends around the blue, where they all four meet, and tie a Diamond or other finishing knot around the blue cords using the white cords. Cut away the ends of the white cord and finish your blue ends to make a handsome pendant! One variety of the finished ring, showing the use of two colors. For more possible




patterns, see the front and back covers of this issue.
[I have taken some liberties with Joe Bennet's fine tutorial, for which I hope he will excuse me. Any faults are strictly mine! - Ed]

# All Aboard for the 2010 AGM

From our Midland's Stringer

Yet again, IGKT members gathered at TS Weston, the Sea Cadet HQ at Weston-Super-Mare in Somerset. It has been seven years since our last meeting there, and once again it soon proved to be as enjoyable as before. Some of those who came on the Friday evening gave of their time to teach the Cadets ropework skills, this being their drill night, while others caught up with the latest news. A number of members took advantage of the hospitality provided on board TS Weston, and after a social gathering in the wardroom, soon got their heads down as it would be an early start in the morning.

The following morning, a team from the West Country Knotters greeted attendees and carried out the necessary administration. Nearly 100 members attended from ten different countries. It is hard to believe that some of us have not met for a year or more, but we pick up just where we left off. That's the friendliness of the IGKT!
More displays of knotwork were added to those that had been set up the night before, and were soon scrutinised and questions asked of their owners. All too soon it was time to start the business part of the meeting.

IGKT President, Dan Machowski opened the meeting with a roll call and silence for those members we had lost during the previous year. The main topic for discussion was the proposed amendments to our Constitution. None of the amendments affected our role as a charity, but were more in the way of tidying up the rules. After some discussion, these were unanimously passed.

Two new members to Council, Colin Byfleet and Ian Rogers were elected to fill vacancies, and Lindsey Philpott (KM Editor) was re-elected for a further term of office. Barry Mault announced a competition to design a banner for use at shows, and Dan Machowski reminded everyone to enter for the "Ditty Bag Award".

Immediately following the close of the business meeting, two members of the Coker Rope and Sail Trust gave a very informative illustrated presentation on the work of the Trust to restore a historic twine works based near Bridport in Dorset. The Dawes Twine Works once played an important role in supplying flax twine to make sails for Britain's Royal Navy.

Following a splendid lunch, it was a chance to take part in workshops, buy supplies from Footrope Knots or Bruce Turley or obtain Guild supplies from our new Supplies Secretary, Colin Byfleet. Gordon Perry was on hand to assist members with the Guild Library, or you could just sit and chat. Sheila Pearson and Pauline Bentley did their best to relieve members of their money for the ever-popular raffle. It's the only way I know of being mugged with a smile by two very charming ladies!

Right, clockwise from top left: TS Weston, the 2010 AGM venue; Dave Pusil and Caroline Sandrey of Westcountry knotters checking in the delegates; Richard Hopkins explains the domestic arrangements; "How do you do that?" - the essence of another successful AGM.

Dick Clements gave a very interesting talk on the "Handedness of Knots". The afternoon was rounded off as usual with David Pearson calling the raffle. After a short interval, while the room was rearranged, we all gathered in the evening for the Knot Tyer's Supper. Before eating, Dan announced the sudden and untimely death in a motorcycle accident of Guild and former Council member Andy Dart. A few moments silence was held in his memory.

Soon, everyone was enjoying a splendid meal prepared and served by the Sea Cadets that did the unit proud. Following the usual toasts, our President made a couple of presentations. The President's Cup (in memory of Brian Field), which had been held for the past year by Linda and Bruce Turley, was presented in his absence to Tony Fisher, President of the New Zealand Chapter. Linda and Bruce received a smaller cup to keep in perpetuity. Colin Grundy was presented with an engraved shot glass in token of his term as Council Chairman. The evening was rounded off with music and song by our very own 'Frayed Knots' (anyone can join in).

Sunday morning saw many members gathering again to hold a few impromptu workshops, or merely to gather their displays and say their goodbyes. Many thanks must go to Richard Hopkins and the West Country Knotters for organising a splendid weekend, and the officers and crew of TS Weston for hosting the event. See you at the next meeting.

The Long and the Short of it? Knut (on one knee) and Europa

Dick Clements explains the handedness of knots at the AGM

Above: Fenders from Rickmansworth made by Mickey Hazel;
Below: Rickmansworth Canal Boat Festival with a handsome butty fender (I think!) on a narrowboat.

# The Rebozo

***by Owen K. Nuttall, West Yorkshire Branch***

The Rebozo is a versatile article of clothing (a shawl or a scarf) which is credited to the indigenous people of Mexico. The earliest Rebozo was made from coarse wool. Today, it is made from a variety of materials, cotton, cotton/rayon blend and silk, and they consist of various colours and intricate patterns. They are woven on a loom by men. The Rebozos vary in length from 1.5 m to 3 m, and long threads are left at each end, which vary from the material used. Some can have as many as 5000 ends; these are then handed over to women called *empuntadoras*, who use the ends on the Rebozos to decorate them in various ways, using macrame skills to make extremely intricate works of art. Some Rebozos take months to complete.

To go back to the use of the Rebozos; they were used for a variety of things, from keeping warm in cooler weather, to carying their babies or goods to and from market or both. Children could be carried with a toddler on the back and an infant in the sling in the front. To carry a new-born baby the Rebozo was draped over one shoulder and upper arm and under the opposite arm and secured in various ways. One was to twist the two ends together and tuck them under the sling, or just twisted and held with one hand, a practice learned from young girls to adulthood. Another way was to knot the two ends with a square knot. The most popular way was to use the Rebozo knot (Fig. 1), which held in coarse materials and could be easily adjusted.

Though the Rebozo knot is one we would call the Lark's Head or Ring Hitch, it just shows how different cultures arrive at the same knot.

A far easier way of tying the Rebozo knot would be to double the end which comes from under the arm, place your hands through the center of the loop and pull the loop from the top of your hand over, then thread the other end through the loop. If the Rebozo was made from a smooth material it would be prudent to take the end which comes through the loop back through the centre of the loop from the back of the knot (Fig. 2) then adjust the sling to the desired position, pull the tail end up tight to the knot, securing the rebozo from slipping.

Sometimes the women reverse the sling so that the baby is on their back, leaving their hands free to do other work. Different methods are used when carrying older children on their back.

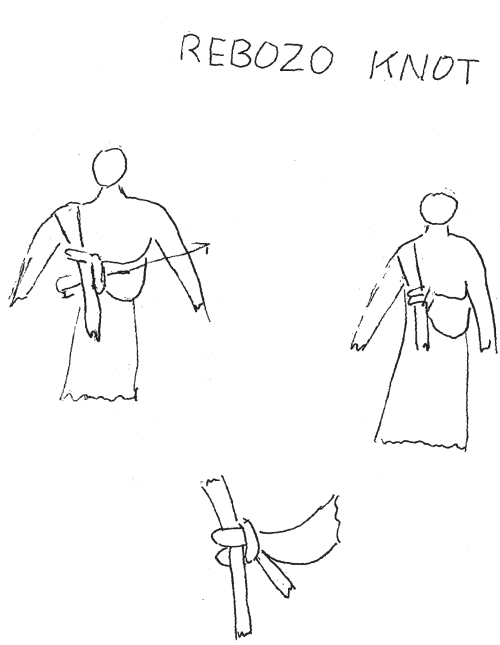
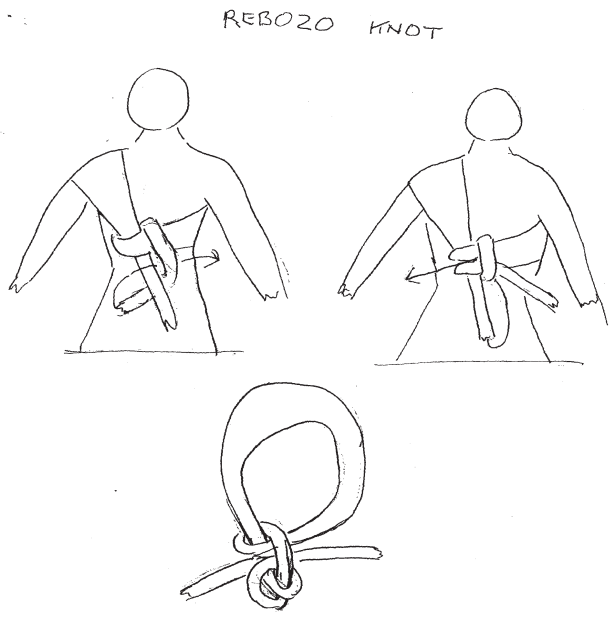



**Figure 1 The most popular Tying Method**

**Figure 2 A safer method with more slippery fabric**



| Effectiveness of round turn in natural fiber roughly = **effectiveness of round turn plus one in synthetics.** | | $^1/_2$ turn | **round turn** | **round turn+1** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Euler's Formula for f* (assume F = 100 pounds)** | **$f = F / e^{k\alpha}$** | **$\alpha = \pi$** | **$\alpha = 3\pi$** | **$\alpha = 5\pi$** | |
| Natural Fibers (tarred hemp would hold even better): | **k = 0.333*** | 35.1 lbs | **4.3 lbs** | 0.5 lbs | **extra turn unnecessary** |
| Modern Fibers **(strong, but slick synthetics)** | **k = 0.2** | 53.3 lbs | 15.2 lbs | **4.3 lbs** | **extra turn advisable** |
| | | | **$3\pi/3 =$** | **$5\pi/5$** | |
| **f = force at working end coming off hitching post** | | | | | |
| **F = FORCE** on standing part (set here at 100 pounds) | | | | | |
| e = 2.718281828 | | | | | |
| k = rough approximations of coefficient of friction* | | | | | |
| $\alpha$ = "angle of turns" (in radians) around a cylinder | | | | | |
| circumference = **$2\pi$r (one full turn = $2\pi$ radians)** | | | | | |
| **$\pi$ = 355/113** | | | | | |

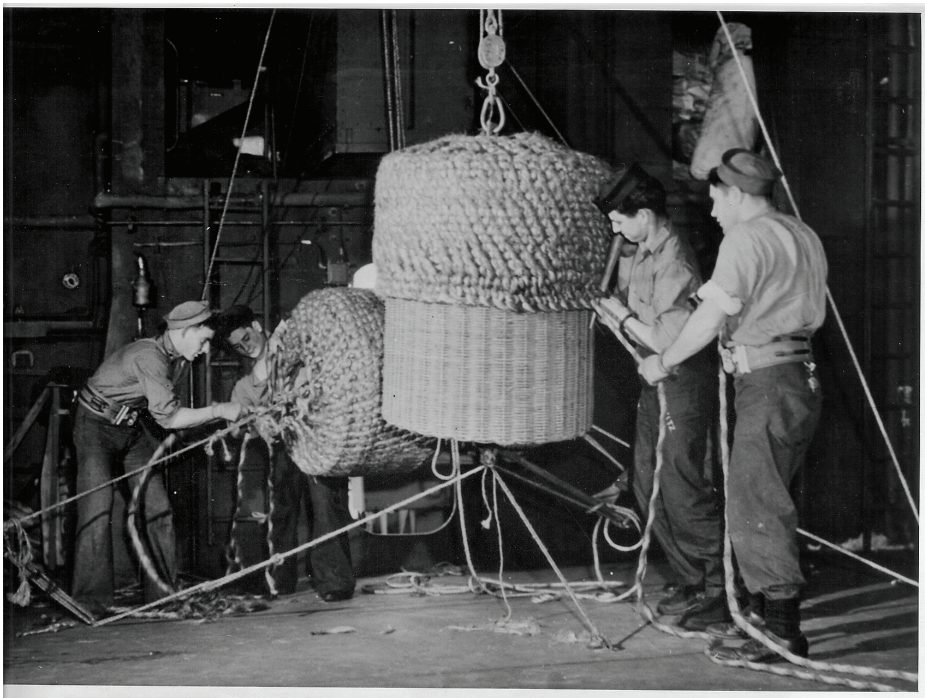
**Bottom line: round turn much less effective in modern synthetics (compared to natural fibers), but (4.3 = 4.3) round turn plus one in synthetics roughly equivalent to round turn in natural fiber (due to friction).**
Round turn and two half-hitches insecure in synthetics; above calculations from rope wrapped on iron post, and coefficients of friction vary widely between materials, but increasing friction increases security, so with low coefficients of friction, extra turns &/or back-up knots &/or stopper knots may be necessary. There should be more testing of bends & hitches & lashings, & more analyses.

*formula & k taken from popular 1936 Russian Physics book; problem involved 5 ton load & 3 turns ($6\pi$) on tow ropes; **f** < 10kg.

http://books.google.com/books?id=sfU507rdBWUC&pg=PA50&dq=%22Physics+for+Entertainment%22+Perelman&source=gbs_selected_pages&cad=3

**Book 2, Chapter 2: Force. Work. Friction.**
**See also §"Why Do Knots Hold?" (pg 51)**
"In everyday life we often unsuspectingly derive advantages from ***Euler's Formula***.
After all, what is a knot if not [rope] wrapped around a small cylinder, the role of which is played by another part of the same [rope]?"

***Euler's Formula*** **($f = F / e^{k\alpha}$) should be part of any mathematical analysis of knots, bends, hitches, & lashings.**



HOLD FOR RELEASE: SUN., APRIL 30, 1944

721092. . . . . .NEW YORK BUREAU

WORK ON A BABY FLAT TOP

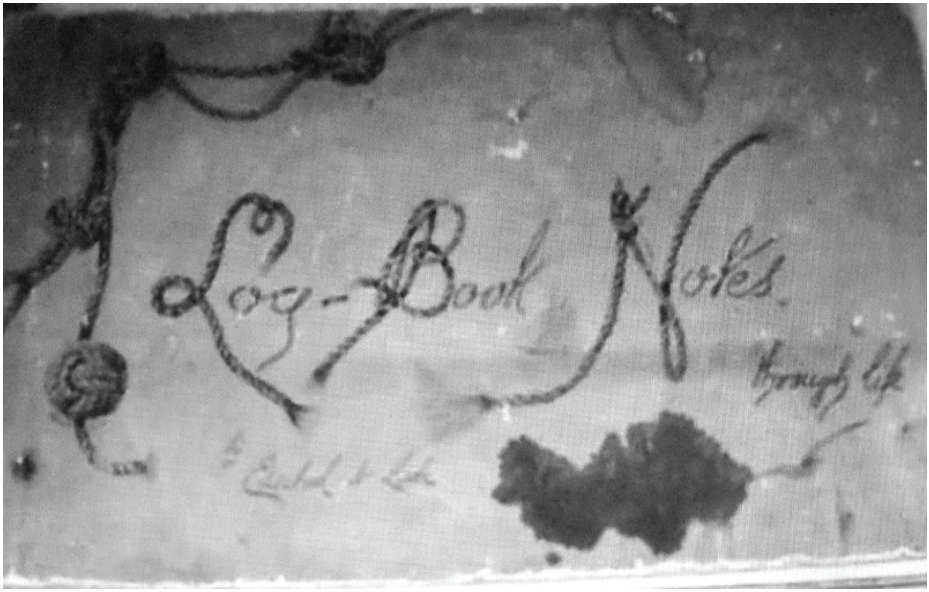
MARLINSPIKE SEAMANSHIP IS NEEDED EVEN ON AN ESCORT CARRIER AND PROOF OF THIS IS SHOWN BY THESE SAILORS CAPPING OFF FENDERS WITH ROPE. MERCHANT VESSELS, CONVERTED INTO CARRIERS AND USED PRIMARILY TO GUARD OUR CONVOYS, ARE BETTER KNOWN AS BABY FLAT TOPS, THE NAVY'S CHILD PRODIGY

NY CHI

US NAVY PHOTO FROM ACME 4/22/44 (RM)

HOLD FOR RELEASE: SUN, APRIL 30, 1944

Can anyone help with identifying either of these images? Euler's formula may be helpful in defining forces in a knot, but how is the formula used? These sailors are heavily engaged in their task of covering a large fender from the middle band down to the base, having already covered the upper section of the fender. The interior of the fender appears to have been made with a sword matting of rope, about half the thickness of a man's finger. Does anyone have any knowledge of the actual method used? Ed.




**The Front Cover - note the 'normal' Monkey Fist on the left.**

Ashley's Mauretania (#544) Knot on the left and a Monkey Fist on the right

## Ashley's Mauretania Knot & Early Sighting of a Monkey's Fist.

by Thomas Simpson.

Looking at the photographs of Clifford Ashley's ancestral home in December 2009 Knotting Matters, started me thinking that it's about time I got around to attempting to solve the naming origins of a particular Ashley knot which I've puzzled over for half a century.

Due to some distant past history with Cunard Line, ever since serving spells in their earlier Queens, Mary and Elizabeth, and the "Green Goddess", Caronia, I have, over the years, mulled over why Ashley would rename a very basic 3 bight x 4 part Turk's Head and call it a "Mauretania Knot"? Since first sighting this knot, #544 in the Ashley Book of Knots, I've nurtured a notion, with no real tangible evidence, that Ashley possibly sighted this knotting appendage on the end of a heaving line on board the Cunard liner, RMS Mauretania. The vessel was in service from 1907-1935, and was one of the most popular passenger liners sailing on the New York-Europe, North Atlantic service. In the 1920s, Clifford Ashley is known to have travelled to Europe two or three times. I've often wondered if at least one of his crossings was on board the RMS Mauretania. The Mauretania also sailed on the occasional cruise out of New York; mostly post 1930, I believe, when she was painted all white.

After making-up a few weighted Mauretania knots (AKA 3x4 Turk's head knots), using a range of materials to reassess their three-dimensional appearance and refresh my mind's eye, their resemblance to an actual Monkey's fist is readily discernible. The knot's Achilles heel is its nine faces, or surface parts, as opposed to six faces on a Monkey's fist. Although a perfectly functional weighted heaving line knot, the nine faces introduce what could be described as a slight out-of-kilter alignment to the knot's overall structural symmetry. While the knot stands alone there's no problem at all, but when set side by side with a Monkey's fist there's no doubting which is the visually superior knot.

*Verification of Ashley's early sighting of a Monkey's Fist.*

Turning to the Monkey's fist: in the second paragraph of Chapter 29, in the Ashley Book of Knots, Ashley wrote, "The first person to picture and name the Monkey's fist was E.N. Little in Log Book Notes (New York, 1888). But no directions were given for tying. It was adequately described for the first time by Dr. Cyrus L. Day in 1935."

**30**

Having in the past searched in vain for the above obscure book, I have, with the assistance of the internet, managed to recently track it down. Its actual title is Log-book Notes through Life, by Elizabeth N. Little. It was published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1888. There was a London publication in the same year by White & Allen, where the author's middle initial was printed as an A (not N). Only one copy was sighted in UK libraries; namely, the British Library, Euston Road, London. Not relishing a 600 miles round train or plane journey, nor forking-out £87 sterling an hour, the present going rate for one of their official researchers, I did attempt to borrow the book on interlibrary loan, but the request through my local library was declined. It's apparently available for viewing in their reading room only.

In the USA, five copies were sighted in the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, reading room viewing only, borrowing facilities for Senators and Congressmen only. Two copies were also noted in the John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections, Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. Again, reading room viewing only. Elizabeth N. Little appears to have been a quite successful illustrator and writer around this time period. I have an inkling she belonged to the Massachusetts area of the USA.

A partial internet review of the book appears in a New York literary journal, The Critic, volume 10, July-December 1888. In part, the relevant text reads, "Log-book Notes through Life is the title of a book of religious extracts bearing upon the voyage toward infinity, very ingeniously embellished by Elizabeth N. Little.... The verses [all by well-known American and English writers] all have the appropriate salty tang: but the unique character of the artwork chiefly lies in its consistently nautical style of ornament...cleverly introduced into the lettering or decoration of the page all manner of sailorly [sic] knots more or less complex: walnut crown, triple Matthew Walker, fisherman's bend, figure of eight, Turk's head, Limerick bend, sennet knot, cross knot, star knot," At this point the review abruptly ends while in full flow, this being a Google book's snippet extract of a text segment on page 284 of The Critic's reviews. A shorter review, also on the internet, was sighted in The Overland Monthly, December, 1889, page 661.

Most unexpectedly, I did, in the end, track down a copy of Log-book Notes through Life on eBay, but while photographing the small display content from my computer screen, the book ran out of time and was removed from the auction site. Although not too enchanted by the quality of the computer-screen photographs, readers who are *au fait* with Monkey's fists should, I hope, recognise the knot's distinctive constructional features from the artwork on the book's cover. The book has a landscape aspect of approximately 8 by 14 inches (20 x 35 centimetres). It's reputed to contain 33 pages or leaves of thickish card, the content printed on one side only.

Prior to the above sighting, an internet search for early Monkey's fists had turned up a couple of word-only sightings. The first was in Popular Mechanics, the well known American magazine, it's on page 328 of the September 1917 issue, in an article regarding the Great Lakes Naval Training Station. The second word-only sighting is purported to appear on page 162 of George Goodenough's The Handyman Afloat and Ashore, published by Small, Maynard & Co., London, 1901. This is another book listed in the British Library, but unavailable on interlibrary loan.

Despite Ashley's earlier mentioned statement, in the early part of chapter 29, of his Ashley Book of Knots, I must own up to always doubting the existence of Log-book Notes. I just couldn't accept that a knot pictured in 1888 had to wait until 1935 for a constructional description in print (Cyrus L. Day, Sailors' Knots, published in 1935). I was one of numerous knotting enthusiasts influenced by an entry in the prestigious Oxford English Dictionary, which noted that their earliest reference to a Monkey's fist (word-only), appeared in Gershom Bradford's book, A Glossary of Sea Terms, published in 1927, in New York. The reference appears in volume IX, page 1006, of this gargantuan twenty volume dictionary.

My dictionary influenced mind-set was further reassured when Portuguese guild member, Joaquim Paulo Escudeiro, came up with a close but slightly earlier year-date in his well researched Knotting Matters article in 2003. His research, focusing on Portuguese language publications, managed to trace back to 1924 for his earliest sighting of Monkey's fist-type knots which also included constructional diagrams. This relevant article appeared in Knotting Matters #78, March 2003, pages 10-14. Well worth a retrospective read.

The resemblance between the Monkey's fist and the 3 bight x 4 part Turk's head may suggest to some *knot-meisters* that this particular Turk's head knot may have been the template and forerunner for what was to evolve into a Monkey's fist. Improvements in knotting were likely to originate in the fo'c'sle, home to the deck sailors. It was here, during their watch below that creative knotsmen, often spurred on by intense rivalry, would tinker with alternative knotting rearrangements in regular knots, which could, occasionally, lead to knot improvements and very, very rarely the introduction of a new knot. Of course the most difficult hurdle of all was "acceptance". After pottering along for a number of years the Monkey's fist appears to have emerged from the nautical backwaters during the 1900s, going on to consolidate its niche as the premier heaving line knot, a position it still retains to this day.

Two earlier related articles.

Knotting Matters, volume 62, February 1999, pages 21-22. Sten Johansson.
Knotting Matters, volume 72, September 2001, pages 16-19. Thomas Simpson.

# A New Name for a Very Old Knot by Derek Smith

Recently on the Guild forum, a question was posted asking if anyone knew the name for a particular knot. Consensus was that it just a bunch of rope rather than any recognisable knot. The replies prompted one member of the Forum to recall a tale from their days as a Boy Scout leader - it went like this :-

In my term as a Boy Scout leader the Troop had 4 brothers come up through the ranks. The first 2 of the Hurley brothers were about a year apart in age and in the Troop at the same time. They were also somewhat "knot challenged". When working on knots they would bring their work up for inspection, usually the work had nothing in common with the knot they were supposed to be working on. At one meeting one of the leaders exclaimed "That's not a bowline, that's a Hurley Hitch!" and the term is still being used today when a Scout in our Troop ties an unrecognisable mess

BTW all 4 Hurley's are Eagle Scouts and have grown up to be fine young men, and can even tie knots.

Now we have all seen a 'Hurley Hitch' - my good lady delights in making them in my 'twiddling cord' and watching in sadistic delight as I try to recover my precious twine. So it seemed only logical to define the 'Hurley Hitch' :-

*The Hurley Hitch - 'a knot construction of variable and generally undefined and unrecognisable form, capable of performing a rudimentary holding function but liable to either decompose or form intractable jams under load'.*

Doubtless these constructions have other names within other trades, but the 'Hurley Hitch' has the added delight that it is the product of a youngster trying to master the skills of a Knot Tyer (and later going on to do so). It has been suggested that the Guild formally adopts the name and definition and send a Certificate of Discovery to the Scout Troop and to the family in honour of the adoption.

So what do the Guild members think to the idea - is there room in our Knotting vocabulary for the 'Hurley Hitch' ? Please let the Editor or the Council Officers know what you think about giving the Hurley brothers this honour.

**Above - a fine example of one type of Hurley Hitch**

# WebWordsWorldWide

There are four parts to the Forum:
Chit Chat (you can talk about anything in here)
Fancy and Decorative Knotwork with a child board of Fancy Knotwork Tutorials
Practical Knots
Knot Theory and Computing

**Chit Chat** has recently encompassed suggestions for improvement to the web-site (knot of the month, member profiles, member benefits such as T-shirts, glasses, stickers, badges, etc.), a discussion of the pros and cons as Forum members see it of the Siberian Hitch (aka modified Halter Hitch), a discussion of the reasons for the knot logo of the IGKT, climbing under power (as in rock-climbing), a listing of the Best of Breed Knots, the Mathew Walker and how it may form the base for other knots, knot cartoons, a solution or two for relieving sore tying hands and a discussion of attitudes to the art.
**Fancy and Decorative Knotwork** has seen suggestions and discussions about fancywork suppliers, how to create decorative shapes from scratch, a YouTube video of the making of a bell-rope, restoring a knotboard, postings of knotboard photographs, 100 years – 100 knots, spherical knots from Turk's Heads, kangaroo hide braiding to cover a golf club handle, Pineapple knot variations, and a child board of Fancy Knotwork Tutorials that you will have experienced from the CD sent with this issue.
**Practical Knots** discussions have centered around resolving (or at least arguing the finer and not-so-finer points of) physicists untangling the mystery of why ropes do not unwind, matching the Zeppelin Loop and Zeppelin Bend in actual use, joining fishing lines with knots, the halter hitch Vs other hitches, the favorite methods and relative security of tying a Trucker's hitch, knots for a child's swing, knots in the wild (how knots are <u>really</u> used/tied), the cow hitch/fixed loop usage, rope ladder security, advice for towing a vehicle using knotted rope (very interesting and sometimes heated), how to practice knot tying, the relative merits of various slip/grip hitches in situations requiring them.
**Knot Theory and Computing** has centered around technical discussions of various programs to represent knots on a computer screen, an iPhone application for tying knots, a torus knot application in Blender 2.5 (fascinating – like watching fractals), ABOK #1862, knotting nomenclature and the naming of knots.

Try logging on to http://www.igkt.net and clicking the link there for the IGKT Forum (left-hand side panel, about half-way down).

# History of the IGKT's Unique Gavel

Guild members who attend the half-yearly meetings in the UK may have noticed that the Chairman calls the meeting to order with a very smart gavel, which now lives in a splendid wooden box made by retiring Chairman, Ken Nelson. This was not always the case. Back in 1988 when I chaired the Committee we had no gavel and raising my voice or banging on the table didn't always work!

However at that time my 13 year old son, Peter, was discovering the delights of wood turning having met a "bodger" who was doing the rounds of the local County Craft Fairs. "I'm a REAL Bodger" he introduced himself and was promptly recruited to demonstrate the workings of the pole lathe while the owner talked to the crowds.

Not only did this provide me with quite a number of rolling pins, but the Guild acquired its gavel. If you inspect it closely you can see that both the handle and the business end are very slightly oval in cross section (as are my rolling pins!) – a common characteristic of objects that are turned in green wood on a pole lathe.

Now the Committee could be called to order and when Stuart Grainger became President he embellished the gavel with his distinctive decorative knotting.

Penny Bodger
[A 'bodger' is a craftsman who worked wood on a green-wood lathe; a green-wood lathe is a wood lathe specifically used to shape green wood - Ed]

# Branch Lines

## Autumn General Meeting

We hereby invite the IGKT to hold their Autumn knot meeting in the Swedish Naval Museum in Karlskrona, Sweden in September or October, 2010 [watch this space and the web-site for dates - Ed]. I am sending this notice through Des Pawson because he has been here before and knows what the area looks like.

Karlskrona is bult on several islands and was founded in 1690 as a naval base, still in operation, and many of the old buildings are still in use. The new Naval Museum was built in 1997 and is very modern. We have a lecture hall big enough for about 130 people with the possibility to change the layout to accommodate workshops so that others can join in. We also have a restaurant in the same building.

For members of the IGKT we will provide a guided tour through our exhibitions, the sloop and barkass shed, built in 1790, and our workshops for boat repairs, tackle chambers and boat stores, totalling 10800 square meters [116,250 sq ft] in three floors. We can also show you our 300 m long [904 ft] ropewalk still in use by the Historic Shipyard Society on the naval base. We also have several ships on display.

Accommodations are nearby within 10/15 minutes on the other side of town. I am Nils Gustavsson, Rigging Master in the MarinMuseum since 1997 and as a rigger and carpenter of the Fullrigger Jarramass since 1982. I welcome you to Sweden

Many Knot Greetings!

Nils Gustavsson
Rigging Master Ships Unit,
Swedish National Maritime Museum
SE 371 21 Karlskrona
nils.gustavsson@maritima.se

## EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH Branch News and Upcoming meeting:

Report of the East Anglian Meeting of the IGKT - 20th March 2010

The members met in the Abbots Hall Primary School, Stowmarket, near the East Anglian Museum of Rural Life. As always, the colourful Tuffy Turner swiftly dealt with all the boring formalities of 'the Branch Meeting' so that we could get on with the knotty business of a light hearted, entertaining and educational afternoon of serious knot tying.

The broad based theme of the day was 'Braids'. Tuffy opened the batting (a quaint English expression meaning that he was he first to speak) with his prolong knot, (or was he just prolonging his talk?) whilst Liz gave an example of everyday braiding found in he home with her string of garlic (although not my home, as Sylvia won't sleep in the same bedroom if I ever eat any).

Ian raised the tone by talking about his interest in medieval re-enactment. There are a number of such societies in the UK who re-enact life, or battles of the medieval period, replicating as near as possible all the materials and equipment used at the time. Ian demonstrated [how to make] thin braid, fitted with a tapered metal end, which had the appearance of, and may have been the forerunner of 'the Shoelace', and was referred to as a 'point'. Medieval man wore an upper garment, like a shirt with no tails ,which had a series of small holes around the bottom hem. The lower garment, similar to trousers, had matching holes around the waist. The 'point' was used to lace the two together, keeping the shirt down, and the trousers up. Fascinating!!

A simple method of Japanese Braiding was demonstrated, using an empty 'Pringle' tin, which also serves to keep the braiding and all the essential equipment inside. Dolly pegs [see photo below - Ed] were suitable to be used as weights, and an ordinary clothes peg as a 'marker'. Alison showed us some Chinese braiding, and Irene talked us through knitted braiding, not only round but also flat braids using two knitting needles, and using crochet techniques.

Dolly Pegs

Des displayed braids used for 'hobbling' horses and donkeys and for attaching a plough. He also had examples of platted and braided ropes used on tugs, and a flat braided rope from 'The Batavia' believed to have been used for lifting barrels.

Terry had a ladies choker made of human hair, which [chokers] were popular in the Victoria era, and Diane showed a braided watch strap.

All this, and there was still time for our guest from Alaska, Louie Bartos, to give us a fascinating insight into the tying of cringles, using both modern and accepted method, and examining historic examples using an earlier method. Louie has been working on the remains of the sails of the VASA sunk in Stockholm in 1628, where the cringles appeared to be of an irregular quality, had spent some time discovering the historic method used to tie them. This method appeared to have been improved upon over the centuries, bringing us to the present day method, which produces a better and more consistent result. This was a fascinating talk, and serves to remind us that members are welcome at all and any local branch meeting anywhere in the world (but may be called upon to speak).

Report by Nigel Harding (late but not forgotten)

Upcoming Meeting Notice: Saturday 14th August 2010,

**Outdoor Gathering of Knot Tyers** @
The Gables, Harwich Road, Ardleigh
Colchester, Essex, CO7 7PQ

It will be a great opportunity to tie knots, so

Come for the day, or camp over night

All welcome, but bring your own string

For details and bookings contact Nigel Harding 01394 420419

## French Knotting Weekend
## Tenth Anniversary

@ the Royal Ropery of Rochefort-sur-Mer
March 27 & 28, 2010

To all our fellow knot-tyers,

Our organized European days this year in Rochefort were a success. Accomodated at the CIM, close to the royal Rope manufactury and the building site of the Hermione, the place was ideal for the exhibition (tables, windows, bar) and thanks to the preparation by Nicolas Forgeau and Jean-Paul Braud, we had a visit by many of the

public and by significant local notables (including the Chief of staff of the National marine). At the time of this AG, the officers of the Association were changed and the breadth of the council of administration was widened (detail in the statement sent to the Chairman of IGKT). We all thank Graham MacLachlan and Luc Prouveur who have helped to develop the IGKT and to bring it to its current level. Antoine Leroy and I have the heavy task to continue sound widening of activity and to increase the notoriety of our association. We will send the statement of AG henceforth to you as well as the accounts. Do not forget that the IGKT belongs to its members and that any help, comment and any other contribution will be able to help us to bring your wishes closer.

Tres cordagement,

Jean-Pierre Durand

[Is my French translation an improvement over my high school learning? Thanks for putting up with it - Ed]

## New Zealand Chapter

The Kapiti Branch of the New Zealand Chapter came into existence on January 24, 2010 at Paraparaumu, Kapiti, NZ, founder Roger Carter. Well done all!

Report of the New Zealand Chapter of the IGKT

Annual General Meeting aboard the scow 'Echo' at Picton, Sunday January 24, 2010. For my sins I was again elected President of the Chapter. As you can see above we now have a new Branch, the Kapiti Branch, founder Roger Carter, meetings to be held, as needed, at 'Calico Jack's'.

We wish to report the following substantive matters, resolved at our AGM:
"President Fisher is to write to Paul Leppington of NZ Spirit of Adventure Trust to seek a meeting with him when next he is in Auckland, to engender greater membership for the Branch;
That the Bell Rope made for the London 2010 Olympic Games now be offered to the New Zealand Committee [Richard Hodges has undertaken since the meeting to make a second copy of the Bell Rope to offer to the London Olympic Organising Committee - Thank you Richard!]
That the IGKT Council be urged to set up a Technical Committee with the power to attribute to a proposer that a knot submitted to it is in the opinion of the IGKT, that until other evidence is presented to it, the knot submitted is a new discovery"

Tony Fisher

# Pacific Americas Branch

## Woggles for the Cub Scouts of Troop 824
## Westchester, California

Another lady we met during the Earth Day Celebration at the STAR Eco Station [we attended and displayed our pieces for kids on April 25, 2010 - Ed], asked if we would be interested in attending one of her Cub Scout meetings and teach them to tie the Scout Woggle.

On the 25th of May, Lindsey Philpott and I attended their meeting. There were 5 Cubs, all about ten years old.

We began the session with Lindsey giving a short presentation on proper and safe ways to use ropes and knots. He had also prepared some instructions for 3Lx4B[1], 4Lx3B[2], & 4Lx5B[3] Turk's Head Knots, all of which are forms of the woggle. We discussed the knots and decided that we would both teach the 3Lx4B THK first, and if any of the Cubs mastered that one, we would progress to the others. But, the evening was pretty much taken up with the 3Lx4B. We did, however, leave the instructions for all of the knots with the leader.

With so few Scouts, it was pretty much a one on one session, which the boys seemed to enjoy. One of the leaders was kind enough to take some pictures during the meeting, so we do have some proof of our efforts.

The young men were very attentive and I think a couple of them may actually be able to reproduce the knot with a little effort.

Our thanks to Ms. Larisa Stephan, one of Troop 824's Cub leaders, for inviting us to their meeting. We enjoyed our evening with the Cub Scouts.

1 ABOK#1305.

2 ABOK#1308, 1309, 1310, & 1311.

3 No explicit 4Lx5B THK, but referenced near the end of ABOK#1308, 1309, 1310, & 1311.

Our next event is the Summer Sailstice on the Father's Day weekend on Treasure Isle in San Francisco where Bob and Sue Bosch with Karin and Lori, Lindsey Philpott, Joe Soanes, JD Lentzen and Jimmy Williams will be in attendance to encourage young and old to enjoy knotting at its finest! Report and photographs in the next issue.

# Solent Branch

April has been a particularly pleasant month to report on. Firstly we had our usual bi-monthly meeting on the 13th. It was our A.G.M.where we sorted out a few little problems and elected next years Officers of the Branch. And guess what? They insisted that the incumbent Officers remain for another year. Next we knuckled down to some homework. It was the 'Eskimo Bowline' and the 'Chinese Square Knot'. Remember last time I spoke about knots having more than one name, well I could only find an 'Eskimo Bowstring Knot', and it was the one they wanted.

On the 20th we held the Branch's Tenth Birthday Dinner. The only knots seen that night were those in the ties of the Gentlemen. There were quite a few varieties of tie knots on the night and the menfolk 'scrubbed up' well for the occasion. The Ladies outshone us though. The fine weather brought them out in their colourful Spring creations and displayed many a fine knot in their ribbons and lace. The meal was a set menu that was beautifully cooked and presented. The food was delicious, the company charming and the evening delightful. It was a fitting end to the first ten years, may the next ten be as memorable.

Terry Meaden

# Upcoming Knotting Events:

26th-27th June 2010
Braunston Historic Boat Show
Braunston, Nr Daventry,
Northants
Contact: Colin Grundy

28th - 30th August 2010
Inland Waterways National Festival
Beale Park, Pangbourne, Nr Reading,
Berkshire
Contact: Colin Grundy

A note from Des Pawson, MBE

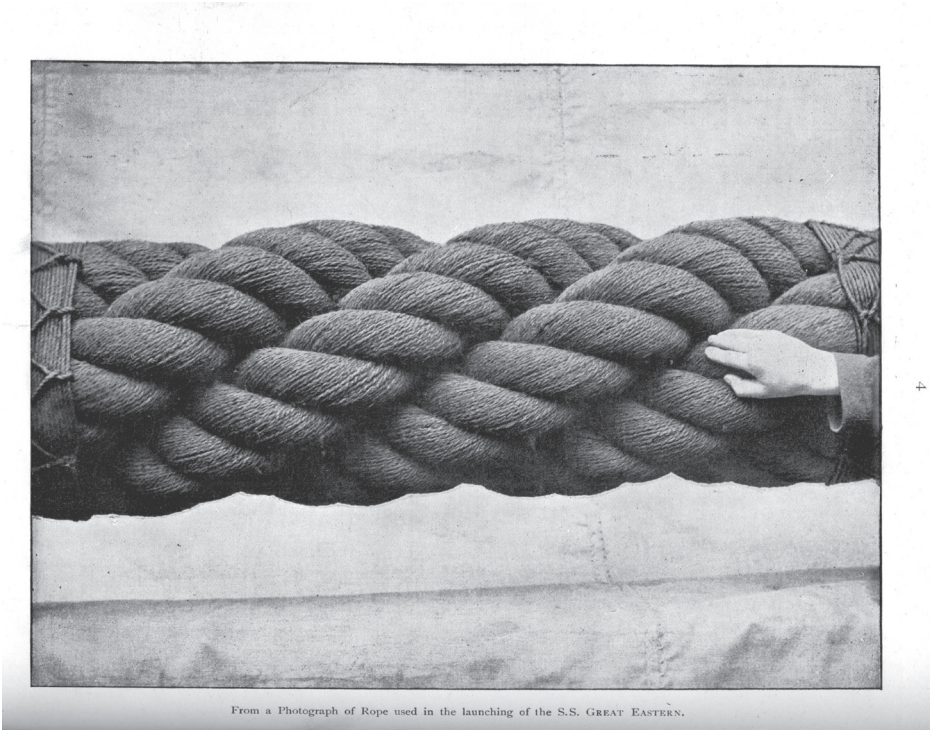
# More on Big Cables

The image, in **KM106,** of the large cable manufactured by R Hood Haggie sent me straight to my copy of their catalogue issued in 1902 to check out the photo. I wondered if by chance the photo reproduced had been misprinted by flipping the negative giving the right hand (Z) lay.

Their catalogue shows an almost similar photo of the self same cable, on a trailer with the words to "carry 8 tons" - so it would have been impossible to reverse the negative. Curiously the title is HUGE MANILLA AND FLEXIBLE STEEL TOW ROPES That R Hood Haggie made both S & Z cable laid ropes is confirmed by the photo of a case of rope samples. However R Hood Haggie do not appear to be as consistent in their use of the words rope and cable as the two more photos in their catalogue show, but perhaps the truth is that they are all ropes but some are cable laid ( made of 3 or 4 smaller ropes ) rather than hawser laid...

R. HOOD HAGGIE & SON, LIMITED.
R. HOOD HAGGIE & SON, LIMITED
ESTABLISHED
1789
HEMP & WIRE ROPE MANUFACTURERS,
WILLINGTON PATENT ROPE WORKS.
NEWCASTLE ON TYNE.
R. HOOD HAGGIE & SON
NEWCASTLE ON TYNE
CASE OF ROPE SAMPLES OF VARIOUS SORTS.

They boast of the largest ***coir rope*** in existence but it is dwarfed by the huge ***coir cable*** made by J & E Wright of Birmingham for the launch of the ship Great Eastern which was launched in 1858. That measured an incredible 47-inch in circumference; note the word circumference, the measurement by which all fibre ropes were measured prior to decimalisation, something the Guinness book of records failed to spot when they quoted this self same cable at 47-in diameter as being the largest ever made. No wonder that record stayed in their record book for such a long time!



From a Photograph of Rope used in the launching of the S.S. GREAT EASTERN.

Caption reads: "***From a photograph of rope used in the launching of the SS Great Eastern***" Notice the snaked whipping at each end - Ed.

# Last Word

This comes from Barry Mault, Honorary Secretary:

## BANNER COMPETITION

Members are invited to design a pull-up banner which we can have made to use at events to advertise the Guild. This is a competition with first and second prizes on offer – £25* and 2 years free membership and £15* and 1 year free membership. The detailed rules are set out separately but the main aim is for an eye catching design which also stresses our international nature by using a simple phrase which can be available in at least 5 languages (together on the banner if possible). It is important to avoid phrases which will not translate easily or have a local idiomatic use. Closing date is not until 31 January 2011 so please try and make the Council's decision difficult by sending us some really good material – there is no limit on the number of entries from one person.

### BANNER COMPETITION RULES

### Eligibility

1. This competition is open to all members of the IGKT including corporate members except current members of the Council of Trustees.

### What is required

2. We are looking for colour designs to be used on vertical banners of the type which are increasingly common – a (usually) vinyl banner which automatically rolls up into a carrying case when not being used. The design should be as near to being ready for printing as possible but the Council reserve the right to make any changes they see necessary before producing actual banners. More technical information is provided below.

3. In addition to graphical information or photographs there is to be a short message which can be reproduced in at least 5 languages (the wording need only be produced in one language 5 times – we will arrange translation as necessary). The message should be in the form of a sound bite or slogan – something which will catch the attention. This is to emphasise the international nature of the Guild as well as make the banner usable in many countries.

4. The Guild logo is to feature prominently at the top of the banner (see Technical Details below).

### Copyright

5. The winners of the competition will be required to formally assign the copyright in their work to the Guild in consideration for the prize they are awarded. The design must NOT include any material where the copyright belongs to another person.

### Submission of Entries

6. Entries are to be sent to the Hon. Secretary on either CD or DVD. No e-mails please. The **deadline** by which all entries must be received is **midnight GMT on 31 January 2011.**

### Prizes

7. There will be 2 prizes – the first prize will be 2 years free membership and a book token to the value of £25.00 (in local currency); the second prize will be one year's free membership and a book token to the value of £15.00. No prizes will be awarded if, in the opinion of the Council, the entries are not of a sufficiently high standard. Equally the award of a prize does not commit the Council to using the design in any way.

### Technical details

8. Files are to be submitted in a recognised graphic format viz. JPEG, PDF etc. The printable area should be taken to be 800mm wide by 2100mm deep (31.52 ins by 82.74 ins). We appreciate that entrants may not have the skills to produce CMYK output to the standard required so we will undertake to arrange for an accepted design to be prepared for printing. There are several websites which give more details of the technical requirements and we strongly recommend you look at the essentially technical requirements before you start.

9. The Guild logo is available for download on our website but this is not at sufficiently high resolution – include it as required and it will be replaced by a high resolution version if your entry is successful and is to be used for printing.

### Judging Criteria

10. The Council will make the final decision on entries and will look at impact, originality and overall impression. The form of words will be taken into account. Allowance will be made for lack of technical expertise but only to a limited degree.

# Knotting Diary and Calendar

## GUILD MEETINGS

**Autumnal Meeting 2010**
Weekend of ?th/?th, 2010
Karlskrona, Sweden.

## Branch Meetings

### Alaskan Branch
Every Wednesday evening 6:30 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E. 19th Avenue, Anchorage
Contact: Mike Livingstone
Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

### East Anglian Branch
Saturday August 14, 2010
The Gables, Harwich Road, Ardleigh
Colchester, Essex, CO7 7PQ
Main theme of the meeting will be Knotting
Contact: Des Pawson
Tel: +44(0)1473 690 090
e-mail: des@despawson.com

### French Branch
Contact Graham Maclachlan
www.igktfrance.com

### German Branch
Contact Peter Willems
Bauer Lanstr. 200c
24939 Flensburg
Germany
Tel: +49 461 73176
Fax: +49 461 7749318
e-mail: peter@fancyworks.de

### Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

### NorthWest Branch
Contact: Dave Walker (pending until further notice)
Tel: 01244 682117

### Netherlands
Every last Saturday of the month (except December)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
Tel: 078 614-6002

### North American Branch - East Region
Contact: None available at press time
Tel: See handbook

### North American Branch - Mid-Atlantic Region
Contact: Michael Pollock
Tel: See handbook

### Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month,
Los Angeles Maritime Institute
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: 1-310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@yahoo.com

### Solent Branch
Second Tuesday of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0)23 9225 9280

### Surrey Branch

**Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00hrs. Please phone for more details.**
Contact: Secretary, Peter Goldstone
+44(0)1483 763054

### Sussex Branch
For details
Contact: ?
Tel:

### Sweden
Contact: Olof Nystrom tel. 08 265065
Pille Repmakar'n tel 08 6110144

### West Country Knotters
Last Saturday of odd months
July 31, 2010 @ 1300 hrs(?)
Tytherington, Nr. Bristol
Contact: Richard Hopkins
Tel: 0117 986 7146

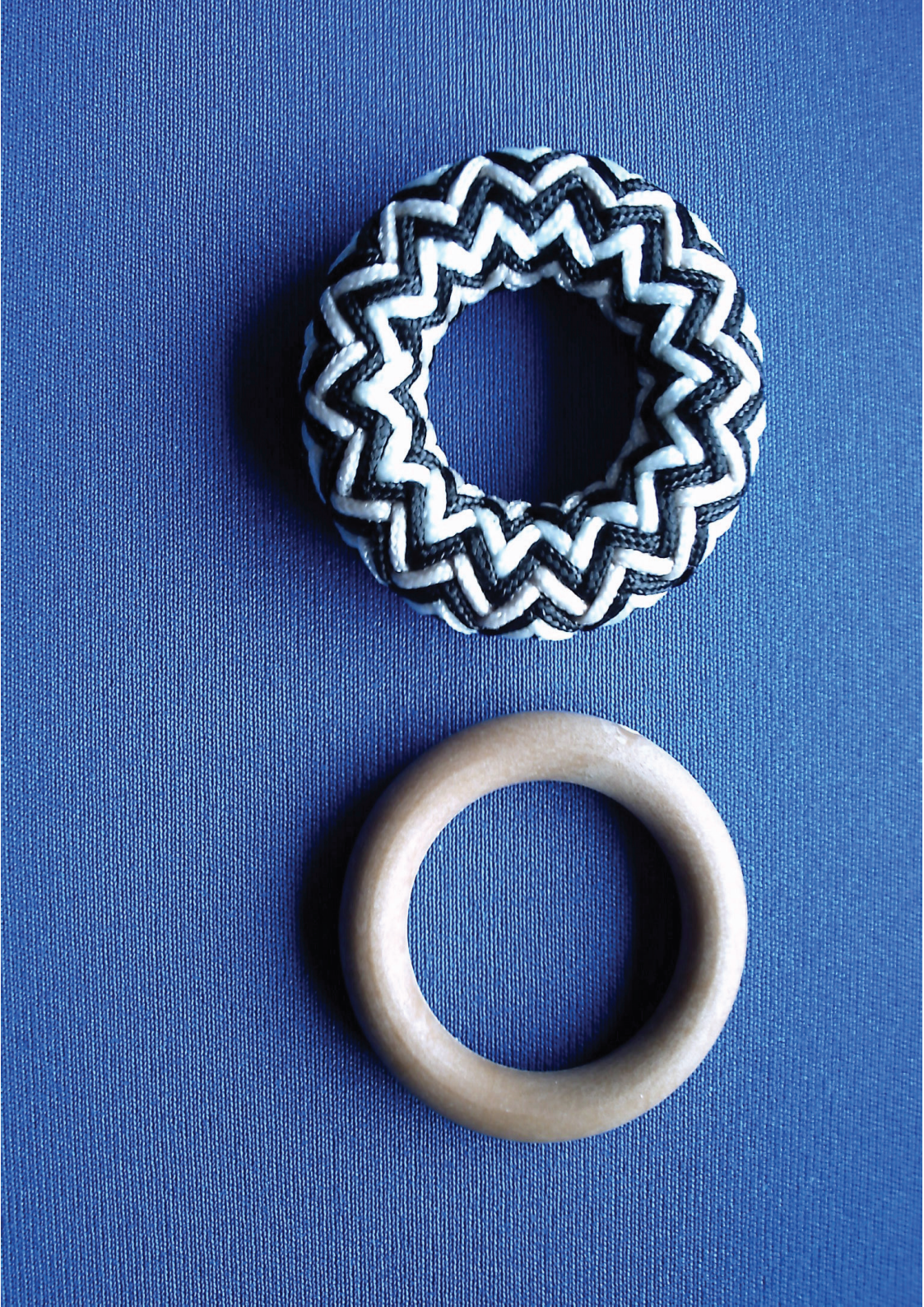
### West Yorkshire Branch
Branch meeting 26 September
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

## Deadline Dates

Until further notice, the deadlines for getting material to the Editor are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| For the September 2010 issue | 1st of August, 2010 |
| For the December 2010 issue | 1st of November, 2010 |
| For the March 2011 issue | 1st of February, 2011 |
| For the June 2011 issue | 1st of May, 2011 |

Applications are now being accepted for a position as a contributing reporter, for the web-site forum. Please send an interest letter to:

The Editor
Knotting Matters
(Address in handbook)

or e-mail at:
knottingmatters@igkt.net